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GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL MONOPOLIES

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GARNETT, KANSAS, SEPTEMBER 8, 1899.

President McKinley's Policy.

In his welcoming speech to the returned Pennsylvania troops the president clearly presented his policy towards the Philippines. He says: "They assailed our sovereignty and there will be no useless parley—no pause—until the insurrection is suppressed and American authority acknowledged and established." His justification of this war policy of subjugation is based upon these words: "Peace brought to us the Philippines, by treaty cession from Spain. . . . It became our territory and, is ours, as much as the Louisiana purchase or Texas or Alaska."

As one of the sovereign people the writer did not understand that we were still in the slavery business, purchasing people by wholesale together with the islands which they inhabited. He understood that we had entered upon a humane mission, and out of real goodness paid Spain \$20,000,000 to relinquish all claims on Cuba and the Philippines, that we might give the people such liberty and such a representative government as we ourselves enjoy. These people were struggling for liberty and a representative government, they desired a voice as to what principles should govern them, and the writer supposed that we were going to give them the rights for which they had been fighting to obtain, and help them to establish the best possible government. But this is not the president's idea. The Philippines were once Spain's, and they are now ours. Spain once ruled the people, and we now have a right to rule the people. Spain once carried on war with those assailing her sovereignty; we have a right to carry on war with these same parties assailing our sovereignty. The president is wrong in his position. It is neither American nor Anglo-Saxon. It is a Norman idea, against which our forefathers labored for more than five centuries. If our president's position is right, George Washington was wrong, and our Fourth of July celebration a sin. Through exploration and founding colonies and granting charters the English government had possession of those portions and people where arose the revolutionary war. The English government was under no more obligation to counsel with the people settling in her possessions than the United States to counsel with the Filipinos. Nor had our forefathers any more right to rebel against England because shut out of a voice in government than the Filipinos have a right to rebel against the United States because shut out of a voice about the future of themselves and their lands. Our nation has no right to purchase lands and force the people to accept of our ideas, nor has any government this right. All people have the same inherent rights that we have, and which we have written in our constitution. If the Filipinos had requested union with the United States, and if our government had been established at their request, or by their consent, and rebellion had afterward broken out, the United States would have a right to put down the rebellion; but there is no true justification of our president's position and policy. It is simply the policy of liberty-loving Greece depriving thousands of captives of enjoying the privileges which they enjoyed. If this war is justifiable, it cannot be justified on the ground that the

A BUGLE BLAST!

FARMERS, AWAKE! READ! REFLECT!

An Unfair Competition.

From Orange Judd Farmer.

The alien contract labor law is being grievously violated in Hawaii. No specific form of government having been provided by congress for the Sandwich Islands, the Dole regime continues in power. It is notoriously controlled by the sugar planters, who are developing their plantations on a most extraordinary scale by the use of artificial irrigation and Japanese and Chinese coolie labor. Nearly \$20,000,000 has been invested in plantation improvements there since annexation, and more than 12,000 coolies have been imported during the past few months. These Asiatic coolies, who are virtually slaves, now outnumber the rest of the population, both native and foreign.

No check whatever has yet been placed on the importation of this contract labor, nor has anything been done to curb the slave system under which this labor is worked on plantations. Indeed, the situation is even worse than Orange Judd Farmer predicted, before annexation was decided upon, that it would become. The talk about prohibiting coolie immigration, about encouraging white labor, etc., etc., proves to have been mere buncombe, as we showed it to be at the time.

The island planters hope soon to increase the production of sugar from 250,000 tons to 500,000 tons, all of which claims free access to the markets of the United States. The sugar made with coolie or slave labor can, of course, undersell that produced by the beet growers of the north and west, or the cane growers of our own southern states, and anything that tends to restrict the beet acreage, by so much increases the area of other crops, and thus indirectly reduces the value of all farm produce. The question therefore is, Shall our American farmers and tax-payers be obliged to compete with the coolie labor of Hawaii?

A few years ago the tobacco growers of New York and Wisconsin made a great protest because they were indirectly forced to compete with coolie labor in raising tobacco on the island of Sumatra. And we all know what a tremendous howl goes up from the labor unions of the country whenever a few contract laborers are imported from other countries in defiance of the federal law. But here is the whole territory of Hawaii allowed not only to main-

tain a coolie system of labor, but to increase it until the coolies comprise the major portion of its population. If these Hawaiian slaves were competing with any branch of labor represented in our American labor unions, these organizations would long ago have made a protest against it. The labor unions would have shaken the country from center to circumference, and congress would have legislated in hot haste against the evil under penalty of being turned out at the next election by vote of the labor unions. But our American farmers and their hired men do not yet recognize the extent of this unfair competition and are not organized to prevent it as are the labor unions.

Yet they have got to wake up to their interests or the coolie slave system will be extended from Hawaii to the Philippines, Cuba and Porto Rico, in whose behalf the sugar and tobacco trusts are already clamoring loudly for free admission of tropical produce into the United States. American farmers will soon realize the extent of this danger. And once they are aroused, congress must correct the evil or there would be a new deal at Washington. Notice to this effect is hereby served upon the politicians of all parties.

More than a year ago we showed that, in its economic aspects, the results of the Spanish war would be to raise just this new agricultural issue that is now looming up. Many statesmen and journalists who then accused us of pessimism now realize the truth of our position. This question will not down, but is bound to grow in intensity. As between the sugar trust and coolie labor on the one hand, and the interests of our American farmers on the other, who can doubt the final result? Nor will state or national bounties or any other makeshifts serve to compromise the situation. Michigan now refuses to pay the bounty her legislature voted, and a national bounty is hardly to be thought of. The farmers of the United States have carried their share of "protection" these many years, with results that have always been questioned. But now here is a chance where protection will really protect the farmer and laborer engaged in growing sugar beets or sugar cane within these continental United States. If the farmer is now to be sacrificed at the behest of the sugar refiners' trust, he knows how to strike back.

selves liable to the same judgment that rested upon oppressive Spain. While we were breaking the tyrannizing power of Spain and setting the oppressed free, God's signal blessing was upon us; but since our war began against the oppressed, we see no evidence of special divine favor. Let us beware. If we love our land, let us not, by injustice, bring God's curse.

CORRESPONDENT.

Would Not Eat "Embalmed" Beef.

HONOLULU, Aug. 26 (via San Francisco, Sept. 2.)—S. M. T.—Four days ago the United States transport Senator arrived here en route to Manila. Two days later a number of soldiers bought several bottles of methylated spirits of alcohol, and were soon half insane under its influence. A general fight ensued, which soon involved over a hundred soldiers. A riot call was sounded, and the police arrested the ringleaders. On the way to the station the soldiers' friends attacked the police, but citizens and the provost guard came to their aid. A few hours later the Senator sailed with many soldiers in irons.

The second day out from San Francisco the soldiers on the Senator discovered that a considerable of the beef aboard for their consumption was the tinned beef, which has acquired the name of "embalmed beef." Trouble arose immediately. The soldiers refused to eat it or allow it to be served. They insisted that it be thrown overboard, and finally this was done.

Criticism Criticized.

We quote the following from the Midland, one of the organs of the United Presbyterian church. The article was written by J. M. McCulloch:

In the issue of the Midland of July 22nd, the editor criticised J. M. Foster's article for intimating that the church should call a member to account for wrong doing in the capacity of a public servant, calling such action a dangerous ecclesiasticism. Now the question resolves itself into this: Can a man in public life do a wrong with impunity that would bring him under the discipline of the church if done in private life?

"When Governor Drake, of Iowa, signed a bill authorizing the manufacture of intoxicating liquors, while another law in the same state forbade it, the Standard, of Cincinnati, the leading organ of the church of which Mr. Drake was a member, advised the church at Centerville, where he held his membership, to turn him out, and I think the advice was correct. It was a diabolical act and a moral outrage on the good people of the state.

"So when President McKinley upholds his subordinate in defying the congress of the United States by refusing to execute the anti-canteen law, thus causing demoralization, disease and death in our army, I think the Methodist church at Canton, Ohio, or in Washington, if his membership has been transferred, has a right to discipline him with a view to his reformation. When he drinks intoxicating liquors in his public life and sets them before his guests at his table, he is just as liable to censure by his church as though he did it at his home in Canton.

"The church may not have the right to dictate to a public officer what he shall do, but when he violates the law of the church in his public capacity and brings reproach on the cause of Christ and the Christianity of the nation, it is certainly the duty of the church to call him to account for it.

"I have no sympathy with the doctrine that a man can do in a public capacity what his conscience forbids him in his private life. If a judge on the bench believes the licensing of the liquor traffic is wrong, he violates his conscience when he issues a license on the petition of a number of citizens, notwithstanding the law says he may. The study of the lessons in Daniel of late teaches that such an officer must refuse to do the wrong and take the consequences or resign his position because of its requirements; and if we had a few public officers who had the stamina to do so, the eyes of a sleeping church would soon be opened to the sin of fellowshiping a 'throne of iniquity which frameth mischief by law.'"

THE men who create the wealth of the world earn it, but do not obtain it; wealth, under the competitive system, is appropriated by the few who earn nothing.—Flaming Sword.

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SLAUGHTER & TAYLOR.

T. J. Hassey, Mgr., Garnett, Kas.